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Throughout my course in Global Studies Honors, I hope to learn a lot and gain more knowledge about the existing world around me. By the end of the year I expect to learn a great deal about religions, and other cultures.

Firstly, I’ve already began the course of picking up new and interesting information. Recently we’ve started discussing Christianity. Its beginning and the importance of it’s beliefs and followers. In the beginning Jews and the Roman Empire lived in Judaea, all believing in one god. It was professed that God would send a “messiah” to give freedom from sins. Around 66-70 AD Romans started to pillage Jerusalem. During this time, Rabbis became leaders of the Jewish faith. Because the Romans suppressed the Jews, Christianity began to rise. Christianity believes that God the father sent a son to earth to die for the sins of man kind. He was believed to do no wrong, and commit no sins. He traveled, teaching people the word of God. Eventually, the Romans feared a terrible uprising, so they crucified Jesus. Three days later, he rose from the dead. Christianity spread; disciples felt that judgment day was coming. When things throughout the Roman Empire grew worse, the appeal of Christianity grew among everyone.

I have a few unanswered questions about Christianity. What is original sin? It’s the belief that everyone is born full of sin, meaning they are programmed to disobey God. Christians believe that original sin is the reason for so much wrong in the world, even though there is a perfect God. It’s believed that this is why people need to be ‘saved’. Original sin is a condition, like a disease. It’s believed that original sin started with the disobedience of Adam and Eve. It’s said to distract Christians from God, and his teachings; separating them from Him and bringing chaos and guilt into their lives. Humans can not cure themselves of sin, but can only be saved by the grace of God. The only way to receive grace is by accepting his love, forgiveness, and believing that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, and that he died on the cross to redeem the sins of mankind.

Secondly, I wanted to know about The Immaculate Conception. I’ve heard stories, and have sat in sermon after sermon hearing about it, but I wanted to dig deeper. To begin with, The Immaculate Conception teaches that Mary, Jesus’ mother, was impregnated without sinning. Catholics believe that Mary was “fall of grace”, they celebrate by feasting on December 8th. Some people confuse the Immaculate Conception, with the virgin birth, believing that Mary gave birth to Jesus while remaining a virgin. Some believe that Mary was conceived without intercourse, which is also untrue, because she had normal human parents. From the time of her birth, Mary was redeemed and full of God’s grace. This made her worthy to be the mother of God, and gave her a perfect relationship with him. Christians believe that God’s grace is given freely to all that believe in the Immaculate Conception, and regard Mary as the perfect example of God’s redeeming grace. It is believed that she was chosen specifically for giving birth to the Messiah, so that God could redeem the sins of man.

In conclusion, Christianity has many things intertwined within itself. There are plenty of new things to learn; whether it is about the history of Christianity, its beliefs, holidays and more. I’m sure I will continue gaining knowledge about the Christian faith, because there are many more things that could prove interesting.